[English]

Dredging on Rivers at Daman and Diu

2406. SHRI GOPAL TANDEL : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the dredging work on rivers at Daman & Diu has started;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay; and

(d) the time by which the work is expected to be started and completed?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (d) The dredging on rivers at Daman & Diu is the concern of Union Territory of Daman and Diu. As such the Ministry of Home Affairs deals with this issue.

CGHS Dispensary Cards

2407. DR. C. SILVERA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether CGHS Dispansary cards are issued to Central Government employees on their retirement;

(b) if so, the details of formalities with charges prescribed for such cards;

(c) whether such cards are issued for any CGHS dispensary of the country irrespective of residence;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether CGHS dispensary cards are issued to retired Central Government employees within 48 hours from the submission of requests from them; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. For issues of CGHS Cards the Central Government retired employees have to fill up prescribed forms and submit them along with requisite papers/documents such as pension pay order, last pay certificate, photographs of all those to be covered under the card, CGHS subscription etc.

CGHS subscription is based on their last basic pay drawn/basic pension, with per annum rates of subscription varying from Rs. 5 (for those drawing basic pay/pension upto Rs. 1200/- p.m.) to Rs. 50 (payable by those drawing basic pay/pension of Rs. 5000/- and above).

(c) and (d) CGHS token cards are normally issued for the city of residence, the beneficiaries being linked with the CGHS dispensaries situated in their respective localities. If the pensioner resides in a locality where a CGHS dispensary is not functioning, he can be issued a card of any CGHS dispensary of his choice in that city subject to administrative exigencies. In such a case he could be eligible for all the medical facilities available under the scheme, except domicilliary visit. If the pensioner resides in a city not covered by CGHS, he has the option to get his CGHS card issued for any dispensary of choice at the nearest city where CGHS is in operation.

(e) and (f). CGHS cards are generally issued to the retired beneficiaries within 48 hours from the submission of request by them.

Indian Council of World Affairs

2408. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the action taken by the Government on the recommendations made by the Standing Committee on External Affairs in its report presented to Parliament on April 27, 1993 in which it was recommended that the Indian Council of World Affairs be salvaged and resurrected as an autonomous institution of national importance; and

(b) the progress made so far in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) and (b) After the laying of the report of the Standing Committee on External Affairs in Parliament on April 27, 1993 the then Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Salman Khurshid met the President of the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) in June 1993 and suggested inter alia formation of an Advisory Committee of 3 or 4 eminent persons with a functioning office at ICWA premises to (i) advise on programmes and calendar of the ICWA, (ii) assist ICWA in procuring commitments from outstanding experts and speakers from India and abroad, (iii) approve scientific research projects and other policy oriented events for which funding is to be provided at the discretion of the Advisory Committee, (iv) consider developmental proposals to enhance the availability of space and upgrading facilities of the library, auditorium and the dining hall, (v) look at the outstanding personnel disputes and suggest appropriate remedies and any other specific matters that might be considered expedient and necessary for fulfilling the objectives of ICWA. With a view to implement the above proposal on the constitution of the Advisory Committee, the Department of Legal Affairs, which was consulted on 24 June, 1993, opined that as the Committee was being constituted in pursuance of the resolution of the Governing Body of the ICWA which is an autonomous body having its own Memorandum of Association, the Ministry should wait for the Governing Body to pass the resolution and then depending upon the wording of the resolution, the Advisory Committee could be constituted.

2. On June 21, 1995, Foreign Secretary wrote to the President of the Council requesting him to inform the Ministry about the progress on the passing of the proposed resolution by the Governing Body of the ICWA for the constitution of the High Powered Supervisory/ Advisory Committee. The President of the Council has not responded to the Foreign Secretary's letter.

3. It may be appreciated that the Indian Council of World Affairs is an autonomous institution under Societies Registration Act, 1880 on which Ministry of External Affairs, neither have direct control, nor have it provided any financial support since 1985.

Indian Missions Abroad

2409. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR :
SHRI R.L.P. VERMA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Indian Missions abroad and the budgetary provision made for them during the last three years;

(b) the countries, where Indian Embassy/High Commission/Consulate has been opened during 1994-95, 1995-96 and as on September 30, 1996;

(c) the number of Indian Ambassadors/High Commissioners/Consulate Generals abroad belonging to SC, ST and OBC communities;

(d) whether any quota has been fixed for the persons of these communities for appointment as Ambassadors/High Commissioners/Heads of Missions/ CGs; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) The Indian Missions/Post and other offices abroad under the Ministry of External Affairs as of and-November, 1996 were 158. The expenditure on all these offices under the budget of the Ministry of External Affairs for the last three financial years was Rs. 330.73 crores for 1993-94; Rs. 409.84 crores for 1994-95; and Rs. 486.87 crores for 1995-96.

(b) The Embassies/High Commissions/Consulates opened by India since 1994-95 are detailed below :

During 1994-95 1. Consulate General, Istanbul (Turkey) 2. High Commission, Pretoria (South Africa) 3. Consulate General, Durban (South Africa) 4. Embassy, Dushanbe (Tajikistan) 5. Embassy, Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan) and 6. Embassy in Bogota (Colomia) was reopened.

During 1995-96 1. Consulate General, Houston (USA) 2. Embassy, Bratislava (Slovak republic) 3. Consulate General, Glasgow (UK) 4. Embassy, Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso).

During April to September 1996 1. Consulate General, Sao Paulo (Brazil) 2. High Commission, Port Moresby (Papua New Guinea) 3. Embassy, Zagreb (Croatia).

(c) to (e). Ambassadors/High Commissioners and Consul Generals are appointed on the basis of their suitability, experience and eminence and not on the basis of caste or community, and there is no quota Among career Ambassadors/High Commissioners/ Consul Generals, sixteen belong to Scheduled Castes and nine to Scheduled Tribes. As regards the number of these officers belonging to other Backward Classes, the data is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Kendriya Vidyalaya at Wadakkanchery in Kerala

2410. SHRI S. AJAY KUMAR : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Kerala for setting up of a Kendriya Vidyalaya in "Wadakkanchery" in Thrissoor District of Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Since the proposal received was incomplete the District Authorities have been requested to send the complete proposal.

[Translation]

N.H. 28 into Double Lane

2411. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are launching a scheme to widen and to convert into double lane, the National Highway No. 28 from Samastipur to Jainagar with the assistance of the World Bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made so far and the time by which the remaining work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (c). Samastipur to Jainagar is a state road which is included in the proposal containing list of state roads totalling 3100 kms for being upgraded, which has been furnished by the State Govt. of Bihar, for World Bank loan assistance. Necessary pre-feasibility studies for these roads are being undertaken by the State Govt., for being appraised by the World Bank. It is too early to indicate its inclusion of the World Bank loan assistance.